

Washington, D.C. - Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) announced Friday that she has introduced a bill to help families adopt older children by providing an annual \$2,000 tax credit.

“So more children will know the love and security of ‘forever families,’ my bill will help families who are willing to adopt older children transition from foster care to adoption,” Bean said.

The Advocates Dedicated to Older Child Parental Tax Credit, or ADOPT Act creates an annual \$2,000 tax credit for families that adopt children age 9 or older. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, of all the children adopted out of foster care, less than a third are children over the age of 9.

This credit, which would increase annually with inflation, expires when the child turns 18 and is in addition to the one-time adoption tax credit that already exists in federal law. That credit is \$11,390 this year.

Bean was joined by Executive Director Mark McHugh and Senior Vice President David Fox of Kids Hope United, a child advocacy organization.

“Kids Hope United is proud to support Congresswoman Bean’s ADOPT Act because it encourages individuals to consider adopting older youth,” McHugh said. “Teenagers and sibling groups are typically the most difficult groups to find adoptive families for, but – just like younger children in the system – adolescents truly need a permanent family to support them, teach them life skills and love them unconditionally.”

Also supporting the bill was Donna Cole of Zion, who has adopted eight children with her husband Jerome, including one who was 13 when adopted.

“It is very hard to imagine a child growing up never having someone to call their daddy or mommy,” Cole said. “Foster children want to be adopted, they want permanency, they want to be loved, and they want to belong. Whatever anyone can do to help foster parents become

adopting parents is something that benefits everyone.”

Bean introduced the bill this week in the House of Representative, where it will be sent to the Ways and Means Committee.

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